

# Pijao language

**Pijao** (*Piajao*, Pinao) is an unclassified indigenous American language that was spoken in the villages of Ortega, Coyaima (Koyai, Tupe) and Natagaima in the Magdalena River Valley of Colombia until the 1950s.

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Pijao	
<b>Native to</b>	Colombia
<b>Region</b>	Tolima
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Pijao people
<b>Extinct</b>	1950s
<b>Language family</b>	unclassified (Maipurean?)
Language codes	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	pij
<b>Glottolog</b>	pija1235 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/pija1235">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/pija1235</a> ) <sup>[1]</sup>

## Subdivisions

Pijao subtribes reported by Rivet (1943, 1944) and cited in Mason (1950):<sup>[2]</sup>

*Aype, Paloma, Ambeina, Amoya, Tumbo, Coyaima, Poina (Yaporoge), Mayto (Maito, Marto), Mola, Atayma (Otaima), Tuamo, Bulira, Ocaima, Behuni (Beuni, Biuni), Ombecho, Anaitoma, Totumo, Natagaima, Pana (Pamao), Guarro, Hamay, Zeraco, Lucira, and Tonuro.*

## Classification

A small vocabulary list was collected in 1943; only 30 Pijao words and expressions are known.

The few words which resemble Carib are thought to be loans; toponyms in Pijao country are also Carib. Marshall & Seijas (1973) did not detect significative connections between Pijao and other unclassified languages of the area: Colima, Muzo, Pantágora, and Panche, but these are even more poorly attested than Pijao.

Jolkesky (2016) also notes that there are lexical similarities with the Witoto-Okaina languages.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Vocabulary

<i>amé</i> tree	<i>hoté</i> star	<i>pegil</i> foot
<i>homéro</i> bow	<i>nuhúgi</i> woman	<i>tápe</i> stone
<i>sumén</i> to drink	<i>oréma</i> man	<i>orái</i> red
<i>čaguála</i> canoe	<i>yaguáde</i> jaguar	<i>toléma</i> snake
<i>kahírre</i> dog	<i>núna</i> moon	<i>huíl</i> sun
<i>alamán</i> crocodile	<i>ñáma</i> hand	<i>tenú</i> tobacco
<i>tínki</i> tooth	<i>golúpa</i> cassava	
<i>tána</i> water	<i>lún</i> eye	
<i>nasés</i> house	<i>oléma</i> ear	

# Notes

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1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Pijao" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/pija1235>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Mason, John Alden (1950). "The languages of South America". In Steward, Julian (ed.). *Handbook of South American Indians*. **6**. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office: Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 143. pp. 157–317.
3. Jolkesky, Marcelo Pinho de Valhery (2016). *Estudo arqueo-ecolinguístico das terras tropicais sul-americanas* (<http://www.etnolinguistica.org/tese:jolkesky-2016-arqueoecolinguistica>) (Ph.D. dissertation) (2 ed.). Brasília: University of Brasília.

# References

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- Marshall Durbin & Haydée Seijas (1973): "A Note on Panche, Pijao, Pantagora (Palenque), Colima and Muzo", *International Journal of American Linguistics*, Vol. 39, No. 1 (Jan., 1973), pp. 47–51.

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